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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

7183

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SY-05 MCT-02 SS-15 /047 W
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P R 200431Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1230

ICA FOR NEA

STATE FOR NEA

E. O. 12065: GDS 2/19/85 (LYDON, ROGER M.) OR-O
SUBJECT: (U) DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS - PRESS HANDLING

1. (LOU) THE KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR DUBS ATTRACTED A LARGE PRESS CONTINGENT TO KABUL. HANDLING PRESS HAS ABSORBED THE POST'S ENERGIES SINCE LATE WEDNESDAY, WHEN THE FIRST ARRIVED. SUNDAY THE POST ALSO TURNED TO COLLECTING AND DISTRIBUTING NEWS MATERIALS (VOA NEWS SUMMARIES, WF AND USINFO TEXTS OF ARTICLES FROM THE U. S. PRESS) TO HELP ASSUAGE A SORELY FELT NEED IN THE TROUBLED AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS HANDLING. WITH SEVERAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES STILL IN TOWN AND OTHERS REPORTEDLY ON THEIR WAY, PRESS OPERATIONS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SOME OF US FOR A FEW DAYS TO COME.

2. (C) TO KABUL CAME A CBS FILM CREW, AP CORRESPONDENT AND PHOTOGRAPHER, REPRESENTATIVES OF WASHINGTON POST, NEW YORK TIMES, TIME MAGAZINE, LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES, REUTERS, BBC, AND NEWSWEEK. AN NBC CAMERAMAN WHO REACHED DELHI HAS APPARENTLY BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN VISA. EXCEPT FOR HIM, OTHER PRESS HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY OBTAINING ENTRY AND DRA HAS BEEN ACCOMMODATING IN ALLOWING COVERAGE, INCLUDING FILMING AT AIRPORT. REFUSAL THUS FAR TO GRANT VISA TO NBC MAN, HOWEVER, PROBABLY SIGNALS TIGHTENING. MFA REPRESENTATIVES GAVE AS REASON FOR REFUSING APPLICATION AT THIS TIME CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THERE ARE NOW AS MANY JOURNALISTS IN TOWN AS DRA CAN MANAGE. POLICE COMMANDER TARUN, WHO DETAINED POST AND FINANCIAL TIMES MEN FOR A FEW HOURS AFTER THEY WERE PICKED UP ALONG WITH THEIR TAXI DRIVER ON SUSPICION (KABUL 1170), AND GRANTED THEM INTERVIEW, EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT JOURNALISTS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS SUCH WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER COUNTRY WITH TOURIST VISAS. THIS MAY STOP HENCEFORTH.

3. (U) ICA STAFF HAVE COMPETENTLY ASSUMED THESE SUDDENLY IMPOSED TASKS, AS HAVE REST OF MISSION, DESPITE THE EXTRA BURDEN OF HEAVY PERSONAL LOSS. ALL ARE TIRED BUT OTHERWISE WELL.
LYDON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY MA/Cyrus DATE 3-13-87

EDS/EXT. DATE _____
TH. AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ELIGIBLE EXISTING READINGS ☐
D/CIA/STAFF ☒ UNCLASSIFIED
RELEASE ☒
EA OF DCI EXEMPTIONS _____

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